

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An image forming device comprising:
 - a recording section that records a predetermined image on a rewritable image recording medium;
 - a control section that controls the recording section to record a test image, distinct from the predetermined image, on the rewritable image recording medium;
 - a detection section that detects an image characteristic value of the test image recorded on the rewritable image recording medium; and
 - a determination section that determines whether the image characteristic value detected by the detection section is within an allowable range or not,wherein, when the image characteristic value detected by the detection section is within the allowable range, the control section controls the recording section to immediately form an output image on the rewritable image recording medium on which the test image has been recorded, the output image including the predetermined image and not including the test image.
2. (Previously Presented) The image forming device of claim 1, wherein the control section controls the recording section so that before the predetermined image is recorded on the rewritable image recording medium, the test image is recorded on the rewritable image recording medium, and when the image characteristic value detected by the detection section is outside the allowable range, image recording conditions for recording the predetermined image on the rewritable image recording medium are set based on the detected image characteristic value.

3. (Currently Amended) The image forming device of claim 1, wherein the control section controls the image forming device to discharge the rewritable image recording medium to a first and a second discharging tray based on how many times the image characteristic value has been detected, the first and the second discharging tray being connected to the image forming device.

4. (Withdrawn) The image forming device of claim 2, wherein the control section controls the recording section to record a plurality of test images on the rewritable image recording medium under a plurality of different image recording conditions, controls the detection section to detect an image characteristic value for each of the plurality of test images, and sets new image recording conditions based on the image characteristic values detected by the detection section for each test image recorded under the different image recording conditions.

5. (Previously Presented) The image forming device of claim 2, wherein the predetermined image is recorded on the rewritable image recording medium, based on the image recording conditions set by the control section, when the image characteristic value detected by the detection section is within the allowable range.

6. (Withdrawn) The image forming device of claim 1, wherein the control section controls the recording section so that the predetermined image to be recorded on the rewritable image recording medium and the test image are simultaneously recorded on the rewritable image recording medium, and sets image recording conditions for subsequently re-recording the predetermined image on the rewritable image recording medium, based on the image characteristic value detected by the detection section when the detected image characteristic value is outside the allowable range.

7. (Withdrawn) The image forming device of claim 6, wherein the control section controls the image forming device to discharge the rewritable image recording

medium to a discharging tray for defective media, when the image characteristic value detected by the detection section is outside the allowable range even after the image recording conditions have been changed more than once based on detecting image characteristic values of more than one recorded test image.

8. (Withdrawn) The image forming device of claim 6, wherein the control section controls the recording section to record a plurality of test images on the rewritable image recording medium under a plurality of different image recording conditions, controls the detection section to detect image characteristic values for each of the plurality of test images, and sets the image recording conditions based on the image characteristic values detected by the detection section for each test image recorded under the different image recording conditions.

9. (Withdrawn) The image forming device of claim 6, wherein the control section controls the image forming device to delete the test image recorded on the rewritable image recording medium when the image characteristic value detected by the detection section is within the allowable range.

10. (Withdrawn) The image forming device of claim 1, wherein the rewritable image recording medium is provided with a storage medium on which an identification code is stored, the image forming device further comprising:

a read section that reads the identification code stored on the storage medium;

and

a history storage section that stores histories of image recording conditions for the predetermined image recorded on the rewritable image recording medium, and histories of detection results of the detection section, wherein the control section stores the image recording conditions and the detection results in the history storage section together with the identification codes by the control section.

11. (Withdrawn) The image forming device of claim 10, wherein the control section sets image recording conditions for recording the predetermined image, based on the histories stored in the history storage section.

12. (Withdrawn) The image forming device of claim 1, wherein the rewritable image recording medium is provided with a storage medium onto which the control section stores image recording conditions for the predetermined image recorded on the rewritable image recording medium and detection results of the detection section.

13. (Withdrawn) The image forming device of claim 12, wherein the control section sets the image recording conditions for recording the predetermined image based on the image recording conditions and the detection results stored in the storage medium.

14. (Previously Presented) The image forming device of claim 1, wherein the detection section detects a display density of the test image, the display density being included in the image characteristic value.

15. (Previously Presented) The image forming device of claim 1, wherein the recording section writes the test image and the predetermined image on the rewritable image recording medium using an optical signal.

16. (Currently Amended) An image forming method comprising:
recording a test image on a rewritable image recording medium based on predetermined image recording conditions set for a predetermined image, distinct from the test image, to be recorded on the rewritable image recording medium;
detecting an image characteristic value of the test image recorded on the rewritable image recording medium;
determining whether the detected image characteristic value is within an allowable range or not;

immediately forming an output image on the rewritable image recording medium on which the test image has been recorded when the detected image characteristic value is within the allowable range, the output image including the predetermined image and not including the test image.

17. (Previously Presented) The image forming method of claim 16, the method further comprising recording the predetermined image on the rewritable image recording medium, based on the predetermined image recording conditions, when it is determined that the image characteristic value detected in the detecting step is within the allowable range.

18. (Previously Presented) The image forming method of claim 16, further comprising:

changing the predetermined image recording conditions so that the detected image characteristic value approaches the allowable range, when it is determined that the image characteristic value detected in the detecting step is outside the allowable range; and subsequently re-recording the test image on the rewritable image recording medium, based on the changed image recording conditions.

19. (Previously Presented) The image forming method of claim 18, wherein the steps of:

changing the image recording conditions;
recording the test image on the rewritable image recording medium, based on the changed image recording conditions;
detecting the image characteristic value; and
determining whether the detected image characteristic value is within the allowable range,
are repeated until it is determined that a current image characteristic value detected in the detecting step is within the allowable range.

20. (Previously Presented) The image forming method of claim 18, wherein the steps of:

changing the image recording conditions;

recording the test image on the rewritable image recording medium, based on the changed image recording conditions;

detecting the image characteristic value; and

determining whether the detected image characteristic value is within the allowable range,

are repeated until a number of repetitions reaches a predetermined number.

21. (Withdrawn) The image forming method of claim 16, the method further comprising storing at least one of image recording conditions for at least one image recorded on the rewritable image recording medium, and the detected image characteristic value, wherein the predetermined image recording conditions are defined based on at least one of the stored image recording conditions and image characteristic value.

22. (Withdrawn) The image forming device of claim 1, wherein the image forming device forms the predetermined image without the test image on the rewritable image recording medium after the determination section determines the image determination value detected by the detection section is within the allowable range.

23. (Previously Presented) The image forming device of claim 1, wherein the image forming device deletes the test image recorded on the rewritable image recording medium.

24. (Withdrawn) The image forming device of claim 1, wherein the recording section records the predetermined image on the rewritable image recording medium by overwriting the predetermined image on the rewritable image recording medium on which the test image is recorded.

25. (Currently Amended) The image forming ~~device~~ method of claim 16, wherein the image characteristic value includes a display density of an image.

26. (Previously Presented) The image forming device of claim 1, further comprising:

a first discharging tray;

a second discharging tray;

a counter that counts how many times the image characteristic value has been detected; and

wherein the control section controls the image forming device to discharge the rewritable image recording medium to the first or the second discharging tray based on a value of the counter, the value indicating how many times the image characteristic value has been detected.